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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks: In this amendment no claims are added, claims 9 and 20 are canceled, and claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 13, 17, and 21 are amended. As a result, claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21 are now pending in the application.

In the Office Action of 08/14/2007, claims 1-6, 17-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maffezzoni (US 6,901,493) and Ding (US 6,430,663) (incorporated reference by Maffezzoni, col 6, lines 15-16). Claims 7-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (APA herein after) and further in view of Kawano et al. (US 2003/0229768) (Kawano herein after). Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano et al. (US 2003/0229768) (Kawano herein after) and Maffezzoni (US 6,901,493). Claims 9 and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

With respect to claims 7 and 17, the §103(a) rejections of the pending claims in view of the alleged APA in further view of Maffezzoni, Ding, and Kawano are obviated by the present claim amendments, since features of the dependent claims not subject to the rejection have been incorporated into the independent claims formerly rejected under §103(a). Claims 9 and 20 have been canceled.

Since independent claims 7 and 17 have been amended incorporating the requirements of allowable claims 9 and 20, respectively, claims 7 and 17, as well as the claims that depend from claims 7 and 17, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1, 13 and 21 have been amended to incorporate requirements similar to those in claims 9 and 20. More specifically, claim 1 requires:

creating a protected area on a first storage device,

copying contents from a second storage device to the protected area of the

first storage device; and

copying contents of the protected area of the first storage device to a user

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area of the first storage device

Similarly, but not identically, claim 13 requires:

determining whether the storage device includes a protected area, in response to determining that the storage device does not include a protected area, creating a protected area on the storage device, booting to the protected area and copying contents of the protected area to a user area of the storage device, and saving a backup copy of the user area to a backup storage device.

Claim 21 has been amended to include similar requirements.

Further, dependent claims 3, 4, and 6 have been amended for clarity due to the amendment of underlying independent claim 1.

It is submitted that claims 1, 13, and 21 define over the cited art, particularly with the amendments set forth above.

Therefore withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1 - 8, 10 - 19, and 21 is respectfully requested.

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PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR § 1.136(a)

Applicant hereby petitions for a one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated August 14, 2007, extending the due date from November 14, 2007 to December 14, 2007.

In accordance with the Transmittal Sheet attached herewith, please charge the appropriate extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0439.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 50-0439 for any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 due during the prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 03, 2007

Reg. No. 57,283